PLAN

OF A

NEW WORK, ſhortly to be ſubmitted to the PUBLIC,

UNDER THE TITLE OF

THE GERMAN THEATRE.

TO BE DEDICATED

TO HER GRACE THE DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE.

IT has often been obſerved that GENIUS is of *no Country*; and Engliſhmen ſeem to be ſo ſenſible of the Juſtice and Liberality of this Sentiment, that their Preſs, their Public Inſtitutions, and their THEATRES, are open to Men of Talent of every Clime, and of every Deſcription. There can be no ſtronger Evidence of this Fact than the Encouragement which has lately been given to the *Dramatic Writers* of GERMANY. It is not our Purpoſe to enquire how far this is either expedient or reprehenſible. It is a ſufficient Juſtification of the preſent Undertaking, that the Drama of that Country *has become popular* in this, even to the *Monopoly* of our Stage; and that the Writings of KOTZEBUE have been deemed not unworthy the Attention of *Hoare*, of *Inchbald*, *Cumberland*, and SHERIDAN.

Theſe Events, as ſingular as unexpected, conduce to form an *Æra* in our Dramatic Hiſtory, and ſeem to demand, from the *Preſs*, ſome congenial Token of Reſpect to the Talents of a Country which has contributed ſo highly, and ſo rationally, to the Amuſement of the BRITISH NATION.

In the hope, at leaſt, of ſupplying this *Deſideratum*, the following PROPOSALS are ſubmitted to the Public:

I. A complete Play, from the German, ſhall be publiſhed every Month, or oftener, at the Price of One Shilling and Sixpence; printed on a Superfine Wove Paper, in Fool's-cap Octavo, and on a new Burgeois Type, from the Foundery of *Fry* and Co. A few Copies will be printed in large Octavo, with Proof Impreſſions of the Plates, Price Three Shillings each.

II. Each Number ſhall be adorned with a Plate, repreſenting the moſt intereſting Scene in the Play, deſigned by *Burney*, *Stothard*, and *Thurſton*; and engraved by *Bartolozzi*, *Raimbach*, *Neagle*, *Bromley*, *Warren*, &c.

III. The Publiſhers do not mean to confine themſelves to the Productions of *Kotzebüe*, but to ſelect the moſt admired and affecting Dramas from the Works of *Schiller*, *Leſſing*, *Iffland*, *Goëthe*, &c. &c. &c.

IV. The

IV. The whole Series of Plays will be tranſlated by BENJAMIN THOMPSON, Eſq.

V. No. I. will be publiſhed on the 1ſt of January, and No. II. on the 1ſt of February; and one Number regularly in every ſucceeding Month, or oftener, as Circumſtances ſhall permit.

The Public will thus be in Poſſeſſion of an Edition of the German Theatre, which, independent of its Uniformity, and very ſuperior Elegance, may be purchaſed at one Half, in many Inſtances at *leſs* than one Half, and ſometimes at a Third of the Price now demanded by the Bookſellers.

The Proprietors are perfectly aware that *Cheapneſs* is but a ſecondary Recommendation; and that *Paper*, *Type*, and *Engravings*, however excellent, may be thrown away upon a Work of this ſort, the Value of which depends ſo materially upon the Merit of the *Tranſlation*. Fortunately, however, the Public has left them little Room for Apprehenſion on this Account; ſince the Abilities of the TRANSLATOR have been already recognized, both in the Theatre and the Cloſet: and it will, perhaps, be allowed, that the Gentleman who gave the *Direction* to that taſte for German Dramas which now prevails throughout the Kingdom, * does not, inappropriately, preſent himſelf to the Public, on this Occaſion.

The Proprietors conceive that, excluſively of theſe Recommendations, Mr. Thompſon's thorough Acquaintance with the Idiom of the original Language, from a long Reſidence in Germany, very peculiarly qualifies him, for this honourable Taſk; and his Intimacy and conſtant Correſpondence with the moſt eminent literary Characters in that Country, will enable him not only to ſelect ſuch Dramas as *merit* Tranſlation, but to give an earlier Publication of them than can poſſibly take place, conſiſtently with the ordinary Courſe of *Book-Importation*.

The firſt Number will comprize the Play of *The Stranger*, as acted at the Theatre-Royal, Drury-Lane; *Pizarro*, *Lovers' Vows*, and *The Indian Exiles*, will follow, in immediate Succeſſion.

The Public will obſerve, that ſuch Plays as have already appeared in an Engliſh Dreſs, will be entirely *re*-tranſlated from the moſt genuine original Editions.

Some Account of the reſpective Writers will be occaſionally prefixed.

*Mr. Thompſon produced the Play of The Stranger on the Drury-Lane Boards.

Printed for VERNOR and HOOD, No. 31, Poultry; ſold by all the London Bookſellers; S. Hazard, Bath; J. Clarke and Co. and J. Thompſon, Mancheſter; W. Jones, Liverpool; Rawſon and Co. Hull; C. Sutton, Nottingham; P. Hill, Edinburgh; A. Duncan, Glaſgow; and J. Archer, Dublin.

Printed by T. Maiden, Sherbourne-Lane.